

are as follows: One shot at St. Thomas, spring of 1890, by Mr. O. Foster; one taken in a cedar swamp a mile from London, Nov. 30, 1896, this being the first record for Middlesex County, and which is made complete, as far as I am able to ascertain, by a second taken at Kilworth by Mr. John Thompson, Nov. 17, 1899, both these birds being males. The Rev. C. L. Scott reports one shot near Aylmer, Elgin County, about October, 1900. From Guelph one is reported by Mr. F. N. Beattie as spending the winter of 1899 around his place. Other reports come from Chatham and Rond Eau, all of single specimens and apparently stragglers.—J. E. KEAYS, *London, Ont.*

The Philadelphia Vireo in Western Pennsylvania.—I took a Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) near Shields, Pa., on September 6, 1901. This bird occurs as a rare migrant in Allegheny Co., Pa., where I took the specimen mentioned above. The only other record of its capture in this county that I am aware of, is a specimen taken by Mr. G. A. Link at Pittsburg, May 15, 1900. Another was taken near Industry, Beaver Co., an adjoining county, in 1891, by Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd.—D. LEET OLIVER, *Concord, N. H.*

Observations of a Pair of Mockingbirds seen during the Summer of 1901 in Solebury Township, Bucks Co., Pennsylvania.—The following notes on a pair of Mockingbirds were made by Mr. Wm. Ely Roberts of New Hope, Bucks Co., Penna. Mr. Roberts is at present a student in Swarthmore College and is a very reliable observer.

"This pair of Mockingbirds was first seen by myself on June 17, 1901, in Solebury Township, Bucks Co., Pa., about my home, which is two and a half miles west from New Hope and a mile in a direct line from the Delaware River. I was on my way from college and noticed the pair fly out from an osage hedge that extended past my home. I had never seen any birds around that were marked similar to these. Upon looking them up in a Warren's 'Birds of Pennsylvania' I found that their markings corresponded to those given by Warren for the Mockingbird. My brother had seen them two days previous and my father had also seen them several days before that. The road marks a divide between two creek valleys. It is possible that the birds followed one or the other of the streams and found things so to their liking here that they stayed to nest. The birds seemed tame, flew about our yard among the pines, and were undisturbed by the wagons on the road.

"As I was at work on a farm during the birds' stay, I had chance to observe them only in the early morning or evening and at such other times when in the fields adjoining the house. This accounts for the lack of several important dates. I do not know when the nest-building was begun. I thought, however, from the actions of the birds that it must be going on. So on July 7, at my first opportunity for search, I found the nest about thirty yards from the house, on the north side of the low

hedge. It then had the full complement of eggs (four) and was about four feet from the ground and probably six inches down in the hedge. Sticks lined with horse-hair composed the nest. There was no difficulty in discovering its location, for the male himself showed where it was by flying to a particular place and remaining there just long enough to have given something to the female and then flying back again to his perch. I could not tell whether he did actually feed the mate or not, but his actions so indicated. Pie cherries were ripe just at this time, on a tree close by, and seemed to be their principal food.

"The male could mimic to perfection the notes of the Killdeer, the Bluebird, and the Bluejay. I noticed five others in his repertoire, those of the Orchard Oriole, the Catbird, the Flicker, the Plover [Grass Plover, *Bartramia longicauda*], and the Robin. I saw the old birds no more after the last week in July and the young not at all."

The Mockingbird was formerly much more abundant in the northern portion of its range than it is to-day. In the time of Alexander Wilson it appears to have been a more or less common bird in the vicinity of Philadelphia, as the following extracts from the 'American Ornithology' (Vol. II, pp. 13-24) attest:

"They are, however, much more numerous in those States south, than in those north, of the river Delaware; being generally migratory in the latter, and resident (at least many of them) in the former." The following remark bears on this point: "Though rather a shy bird in the northern states, . . ." Again, on page 14 ". . . Neither the Brown Thrush, nor Mockingbird were observed, even in the lower parts of Pennsylvania, until the 20th of April. . . In the lower parts of Georgia he commences building early in April; but in Pennsylvania rarely before the tenth of May; and in New York, and the states of New England, still later." In another place the following statement occurs: "A person called on me a few days ago with twenty-nine of these birds, old and young, which he had carried about the fields with him for several days, for the convenience of feeding them while engaged in trapping others. He carried them thirty miles, and intended carrying them ninety-six miles further, *viz.* to New York; . . . The eagerness with which the nest of the Mockingbird is sought after in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, has rendered this bird extremely scarce for an extent of several miles around the city. In the country around Wilmington and Newcastle they are very numerous, from whence they are frequently brought here for sale."

Wilmington and Newcastle are in the State of Delaware and situated on the river about thirty miles south of Philadelphia. In a letter from William Bartram, which Wilson quotes, is the following statement in regard to the wintering of this species in the neighborhood of Philadelphia: ". . . formerly, say thirty or forty years ago, they were numerous, and often staid all winter with us, or the year through, . . ." Bartram says further: ". . . many would feed and lodge during the winter [in a European ivy on his house, the famous Bartram Mansion built by the

elder Bartram in 1731 and still standing, on the western bank of the Schuylkill, now within the limits of Philadelphia] and in very severe cold weather sit on the top of the chimney to warm themselves."

From these statements two facts are obvious. First, that the Mockingbird was abundant in the Lower Delaware Valley, in the early part of the last century, and like other Carolinian species was more or less resident throughout the year on the northern limits of its range. Second, that the persistent trapping of the bird tended, without doubt, as Wilson suggests, to increase its scarcity in these districts. Nothing appears so to diminish the number of individuals of a bird species as the untiring zeal of nest-hunters, especially with the object of solid cash in view. This, and the rapid and widespread clearing of land in the coastal plain region of the Middle States, has undoubtedly driven this enchanting songster from its former haunts. But some it would seem have a memory and are of a mind to come back. I have heard of a few others besides Mr. Roberts's pair; one pair that nested in Chester Co., Penna., a few years ago, and then there is the pair reported by Mr. Chapman, from Englewood, N. J. ('Auk', 1889, Vol. VI, p. 304). We shall be interested to hear from Mr. Roberts after next summer, and all of us will entertain the hope that these stragglers are spies sent out to view the land and that the prince of song may again enlarge his borders.—SPENCER TROTTER, *Swarthmore College, Penna.*

The Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) in Massachusetts in Winter.—Just below my house in the northern part of this city is an old pasture grown up with huckleberry, sheep laurel and other bushes, and at the further end is a birch thicket with a tangle of briars and some sumach. While passing this birch thicket about 2 P. M. on January 11 last, I heard a note much like the mew of a Catbird, but uttered in an excited, continuous manner, more like the notes of that bird when suddenly finding an intruder near its nest. On approaching over the two inches of snow, I was much interested to see a Catbird jump up into one of the bushes about fifteen yards away from me. I at once made the identification sure by using my glasses. The bird was in sight several minutes, passing by short flights to a thicket across the street. While in sight it uttered its mewing note not over two or three times. This was a fine spring-like day with a light southwest wind.—OWEN DURFEE, *Fall River, Mass.*

The Catbird Wintering at Concord, N. H.—On Dec. 3, 1901, while walking through an extensive wood near Concord, N. H., consisting principally of scrub pine, I was very much surprised to see a Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) hop out of a small scrub-pine, and perch directly in front of me in a bare bush within ten feet of my face. He uttered no note, but flirited up his tail, giving me a view of his brown under tail-coverts, and was gone. I did not have a gun with me at the time so I had no means of securing him, nevertheless there can be no doubt as to